

The speech and

## CONFESSION

OF

William Lord Russel

who was

EXECUTED

FOR

High-Treason

against his Majesty, and conspiring the Death of his Royal Highness *James Duke of York*.

Saturday the 21th of this instant *July* the Lord *Russel* was beheaded in *Lincolns- Inn-Fields*.

**T**He Report and True account, of the late Horrid and Damnable Plot contrived against our most Gracious Sovereign, and his Royal Brother *James Duke of York*. I doubt not but is by this time spread throughout the Nation to the amazement of many, and the wonder of all who have but the least Tincture of Loyalty lodg in the Brest of obedient Subjects, but that *William Lord Russel*, once thought a Patern of Gentility, should be Treacherous, is as wonderful to some, as lamented by many, but not to digress from my intended purpose. Let me acquaint you with the Gradual Proceedings at the last Sessions, where my Lord after a fair Tryal Received his Sentence of Condemnation. Great Endeavours

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were used for his Remission, but the Fact wherewith he was charged, savoured so much of Disloyalty, and Conspiracy of Treasonable Contrivances, that sueing for pardon was as insignificant, as his Crime Abominable: but after all Endeavours used to keep him from the Fatal Stroak, order was given for Erecting a Scaffold in *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*, there to be the last Stage he should tread, and become an Example to all persons who so unadvisedly, will intangle themselves into such a Labyrinth of Confusion.

My Lord in the time of his Confinement seemed to be much concerned, for his (then) present State, deploring his sad condition, and much like a Christian, repenting his ill undertaken enterprize. Never was man more applauded for Generosity to the poor, for Tenderness to all persons in distress, and ten thousand pitties, it is that a person of such Rare Qualifications, should by any indirect means be so wrought upon, as to be concerned, in such a matchless Conspiracy. But Heaven that always frowns upon such Deeds of Darknes, will by some means or other, bring to light the accursed Stratagems of premeditated Murder.

But having received an unchangeable Sentence of suffering for his great Crime, he like a Christian, prepared for his sudden change, and I doubt not but his true penitencie, for his rash undertaking may prove advantageous to his immortal Soul: and that though he dies as a Malefactor here, yet through the Mercys of Jesus Christ, he may live eternally in the World to come.

But the day of his Execution being come, and on *Saturday July 21 1683*. He was conveyed to the place of Execution, which was appointed in *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*, near his civil Habitation, being accompanied with thousands of wondring Eyes, and aching Hearts.

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He mounted the Stage, where by his amazed looks, it was easily to guess the sorrow of his afflicted heart, while his poor Lady, and the rest of his nearest Relations, were ready to sink under the burthen of their Calamity, but as he was a Gentleman, whose Education was inferiour to but a few, so he deputed himself, that he begat pity in the hearts of the Spectators, all pitying his deserved punishment, and lamenting his sad Fate. Thus Traversing the Fatal Stage, he at last made a worthy Oration acknowledging his crime, for which he was justly condemned, advising all to be Loyal and True, and that his untimely end might be a warning to all others, never by hopes of future advantage to lodge the least of disloyalty in the most secret Closets of their Hearts; since Heaven hath forbid the shedding of Innocent Blood, which without doubt, drop for drop must be accounted for, with wary Eyes. Thousands beheld this dying Gentleman, and none so obdure as not to grieve at his unfortunate overthrow.

But after some speech made by him, having the good admonitions of some Devines, which he kindly received, he prepared himself for the block, & with unwilling willingness submitted to the severity of the Law, while aching heart could grant him no redress, but with volumes of sighs, sent forth palpable signals of their unexpressable sorrow.

But to come to a conclusion. After he had delivered himself Verbally to the Auditory, and directed his prayers to the creator of all things, he took view of the block and having fitted himself for the stroak, he laid down his head, and paid dearly for his conspiracy, the executioner doing his business by severing his head from his body at 2 or 3 Stroaks



God grant that this his death may be awarning to all, that they may never become guilty of such Diabolical conspiracies, since the world can not but admire the insolency of such offenders who Sayter like seek the destruction of their lawfull Prince.

What incouragment can Traytors have, to undertake such dangerous attempts, or what can they purpose to themselves, since murther is absolutely forbid by the command of the Almighty But to Murther a King, is without doubt acrime so detestable in the common sence of the very Vulgar that nothing is sufficient to expiate its abominations.

In what flourishing condition might *England* be, could they but be unanionous among themselves and loyal to their Prince, till then we cannot expect but continual troubles and an end thereof shall be the unfeigned prayer of your humblest Friend

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